HEALTH
E - 3 SEP 1956
G.R.

WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1955

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

The Chairman and Councillors of the Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District:-

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District. The Report is presented as follows:-

A. Vital Statistics.
B. General provisions of Health Services in the Area.
C. Sanitary circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.
2. Sewerage.
3. Dry refuse and Rodent Control.

D. Factories and Workshops.
E. Housing.
F. Inspection and Supervision of Food
G. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and consideration. I have much appreciated the help and co-operation given to me by the staff of the public health department, officials in other departments, and by my professional colleagues in practice in the area.

AUGUST, 1955

J.B.M. Mayes.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:- Councillor T.H. Sutton, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:- Councillor D.C. Trehane, J.P.

COUNCILLORS:-

C.W. Brewer.
Revd. W.R. Buckett.
C.O. Chaleel.
Major V.G. Cole
W.S. Cornick
Lady Lettice Ashley-Cooper.
Rt. Hon. Viscount Cranborne
H.S. Craven
T. Edgerton
P. S. Garland
L.B. Gauntlett
Commander H.S. Greenlaw R.N.(E) Ret.
E. Haskell.
F.J. Harper.
P. Hibberd.
A.R. Hughes.
A.J. Maton
A.E. Jolliffe.
F. Morris
C.J. Pattle
A.W. Pinnick
A.R. Priddle.
H.V. Purchase.
Col. T.S. Rendall
W.R. Ricketts.
F.C. Rowe
R.S. Rowe
Major W.N. Seymour
J.C. Sheasby
J.C. Shearing
Mrs. R.D.N. Somerset.
C.R. Stone
Mrs. L.M. Tattersall.
Col. W.E. Vaudrey, M.C., M.A.
Col. P.J.K. Warren
G.H. Wakefield.
Revd. A.W. Williams

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - PART TIME.

J.B.M. Mayes., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

W.R. Chick. M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

G. Bowers. M.S.I.A.

MEAT INSPECTORS

A. Holmes. M.S.I.A.

R.E. Hargreaves. M.S.I.A.

W.T. Barton. M.S.I.A.

SECTION A
GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of district.....	80, 863 acres.
Population as estimated by Registrar General 30/6/55...	23, 070
Total number of inhabited houses - estimated.....	7, 517
Rateable value at 1st April, 1955.....	£128, 523
Sum represented by penny rate.....	£ 505.12.3.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955
(As supplied by the Registrar-General)

	Male.	Female.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS			
Total registered.....	149	157	306
Legitimate.....	143	147	290
Illegitimate.....	6	10	16
STILLBIRTHS			
Total registered - legitimate.....	2	6	8
DEATHS			
Total registered.....	155	137	292
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE			
Total registered.....	10	2	12
Legitimate.....	8	2	10
Illegitimate.....	2	-	2
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE			
Total registered.....	10	2	12
Legitimate.....	8	2	10
Illegitimate.....	2	-	2

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS	Wimborne and Cranborne R.D	England and Wales.
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	11.22	15
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	13.46.	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths).....	25.4.	23.1
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	12.65.	11.7
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	9.36.	
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births.....	39.47.	24.9

The Comparability Factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out the difference of age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and enables more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in other areas.

There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, scarlet fever and meningococcal infections.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955
Supplied by the Registrar General.

	Male.	Female.	Total
Tuberculosis - respiratory	0	2	2
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	4	11
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	11	24
Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	26	49
Coronary disease, angina	31	15	46
Hypertension with heart disease	5	4	9
Other heart disease	17	23	40
Other circulatory disease	9	17	26
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	7	1	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
Congenital malformation	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	14	27
Motor vehicle accidents	8	0	8
All other accidents	1	5	6
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide	1	0	1

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

In 1955, 306 children were born compared with 293 children in 1954 and 309 in 1953.
8 stillbirths were recorded in 1955, the same as in 1954.
The crude birth rate was 11.22 per 1,000 estimated home population.
By applying the comparability factor of 1.20, the standardised birth rate was 13.46.

DEATHS

292 persons died in 1955 compared with 266 in 1954 and 276 in 1953.
Of the 292, 155 men and 137 women. 186 of these were over the age of 70 years.
The crude death rate was 12.65 per 1,000 estimated home population.
By applying the comparability factor of 0.74, the standardised death rate was 9.36 and compares favourably with the figure 11.7 for England and Wales.

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service of the District is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating from the Civic Centre, Wimborne, and from Ferndown. A day and night service is maintained.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

The Staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Dorchester and of the Public Health Laboratory at Boscombe have given the district very generous service. They undertake the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases, or suspected carriers of any infectious disease, and the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream etc.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre once a week in Wimborne, Twice a month in Ferndown and Verwood, and once a month in Sixpenny Handley.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

The Dorset County Council provide an Ante-Natal Clinic twice a month in Wimborne.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Dorset County Council have provided a service in Wimborne and surrounding district, which has proved satisfactory.

SECTION C

1. WATER

The Bournemouth and District Water Company and the Borough of Poole Water Undertaking are the Statutory Water Undertakers for the parishes of Colehill, Hampreston, West Parley, part of Pamphill, Corfe Mullen, Shapwick and Sturminster Marshall.

All developed parts of these various parishes have a satisfactory water supply except Sturminster Marshall and Shapwick, parts of which are at present supplied from temporary sources pending the completion of the Borough of Poole's new works in the parishes.

The Rural District Council is responsible for the remainder of the district, and piped supplies are available in Alderholt, Chalbury, Cranborne, Edmondsham, Gussage St. Michael, Hinton Martell, Holt, Horton, Long Crichel, Moor Crichel, Sixpenny Handley, Verwood, Wimborne St. Giles, Witchampton and Woodlands.

Chase Farm Reservoir and Woodcutts Booster Station were in operation in September, providing an adequate supply to Sixpenny Handley. A contract for main laying to Pentridge, via Woodyates, has been approved, and it is hoped will be completed during the latter half of 1956.

Main laying was completed at Wimborne St. Giles, and a connection made to the existing mains supplying Cranborne, Edmondsham and Alderholt - the Cranborne borehole and pumping equipment will be maintained for use in emergency. Additional mains were laid in the Parishes of Holt, and Hinton Martell and a large proportion of these scattered parishes, including the village of Hinton Martell have a piped supply. Ministry approval was received in September for a further mains extensions in the Parish of Holt which will take a piped supply to the Holt Wood, Higher and Lower Row, and God's Blessing Green areas. It is anticipated that this work will be completed during the last quarter of 1956.

The supply to Verwood was improved after being connected to the Stanbridge source, via Chalbury Reservoir, but some properties sited on the higher ground are not receiving an adequate supply: efforts are being made to overcome this by seeking approval to the laying of a link main from Edmondsham to Verwood.

The majority of the dwelling-houses supplied have an internal supply, but some properties, previously supplied from private sources, particularly in the parishes of Crichel, Witchampton and Hinton Martell, have standpipes in the gardens. These properties are gradually being provided with indoor facilities. The same conditions apply to a few scattered properties in many of the other villages now enjoying for the first time an adequate piped supply of water.

It is estimated that 6,300 persons were occupying 1947 dwelling-houses connected to the Council's mains at the end of the year under review.

WATER SAMPLES - Private.

PARISH.	Class 1.	Class 2.	Class 3.	Class 4.	Total
Alderholt	-	-	-	-	-
Colehill	-	-	1	1	2
Corfe Mullen	3	-	-	3	6
Cranborne	5	-	1	3	9
Crichel	-	-	-	-	-
Gussage All Saints.	1	-	-	3	4
Gussage St.Michael.	1	-	-	-	1
Hampreston	4	-	-	2	6
Hinton Martell	2	-	-	1	3
Hinton Parva	-	-	-	1	1
Holt	7	1	2	9	19
Horton	-	-	2	1	3
Pentridge	2	-	1	6	9
Shapwick	-	-	1	-	1
Sixpenny Handley	-	-	1	-	1
Sturminster Marshall	8	1	1	5	15
Verwood	3	-	-	2	5
Wimborne St. Giles	3	1	-	1	5
Witchampton	1	-	2	-	3
West Parley	2	-	3	1	6
Woodlands.	-	-	1	-	1
	42	3	16	39	100

WATER SAMPLES - Public Supplies.

Alderholt	7	-	-	-	7
Colehill	2	-	-	-	2
Corfe Mullen	7	-	-	-	7
Cranborne	6	-	-	1	7
Crichel	4	-	-	-	4
Gussage All Saints	5	2	1	5	13
Hampreston	2	-	-	-	2
Hinton Martell	1	-	-	-	1
Holt	1	-	-	-	1

WATER SAMPLES - Public Supplies - continued.

PARISH	Class 1.	Class 2.	Class 3.	Class 4.	Total.
Shapwick.	5	-	-	-	5
Sixpenny Handley.	2	1	1	-	4
Sturminster Marshall.	9	-	-	-	9
Verwood.	11	-	-	-	11
West Parley.	1	-	-	-	1
Wimborne St. Giles.	3	-	-	3	6
Witchampton.	4	-	-	-	4
	70	3	2	9	84

Explanation of the standards and classification of water. Based on presumptive findings.
Non-chlorinated piped supplies. Presumptive coli-aerogenes count per 100 ml.

Class 1-Highly satisfactory - less than 1
Class 2-Satisfactory - 1 - 2
Class 3-Suspicious. 3 -10
Class 4-Unsatisfactory. Greater than 10.

Throughout the year, 50 per cent of samples should fall into Class 1; 80 per cent should not fall below Class 2; the remainder should not fall below Class 3. In chlorinated piped supplies the water should fall into Class 1.

DRAINAGE

1. Building development along the Southern boundary of the district has continued unabated in spite of the lack of main drainage. Although the Local Planning Authority has endeavoured to prevent the use of sites in low-lying wet areas, the efforts have received no support from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government when cases have been taken to appeal.
To allow the use of such land, against the views of local opinion, and express the view that if necessary the Council can always use its powers under the Public Health Act, would appear to be in direct opposition to the old saying that "prevention is better than cure".

2. At Cranborne during the year, six more connections to the sewers have been made, unfortunately a number of properties remain without main drainage.

At present the advent of a piped water supply to Sixpenny Handley has not produced any major difficulties, but the owners of properties have been reluctant to proceed with improvement schemes until sewerage facilities become available.

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3. REFUSE COLLECTION

The delivery of an additional vehicle in July has assisted in keeping pace with the increased numbers of new properties needing this service. In the near future, it is hoped it will be possible to reduce the intervals between collections. It is felt a fortnightly collection is necessary in the southern part of the district. This will need an increase of staff.

CLEANSING SERVICE

During the year it has been possible to improve this service.

Unfortunately, delays in executing orders have occurred due to members of the staff being ill or on holiday.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of licensed sites in the area is six, covering 228 caravans.

88 licences were issued during the year to occupiers of individual structures.

From time to time the Council's Inspectors have had to take action in dealing with the unauthorised use of land for sites.

This Council is fortunate in receiving the fullest co-operation from the licenced site owners in the district, who have always shown themselves most willing to co-operate and take any steps necessary to secure a high standard in the residential sites.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIAL ACT - 1951

Two upholsterers' premises are registered under the above Act.

RODENT CONTROL

No serious infestations have occurred during the year and the Rodent Operator has continued to deal with this nuisance by inspections and action on complaint.

Type of Vermin RATS.	Council Premises.	Private Premises.	Business Premises.	Agricultural Premises.	Total
Total number of visits made by staff.....	4	1906	292	126	2328
Total number of premises inspected:-					
A. on complaints.	2	130	50	10	192
B. on survey.	-	1776	242	116	2134
Total number of premises found infested:-					
A. on complaint.	2	106	30	-	138
B. on survey.	2	204	40	-	246
Number of premises treated.	2	120	39	14	175
Number of premises cleared.....	1	102	20	10	133
Re-treated and cleared..	-	18	10	8	36
Number of pre-baits laid.	600	5312	2001	901	8814
Number of poison baits laid.	12	110	40	20	182
Number of post baits laid..	80	150	110	70	410
Number of instances where other methods used.....	Warferin.	2501	1471	300	4272
Estimated number of rats destroyed.....	300	1196	600	80	2176
Number of bodies of rats recovered.....	70	332	200	30	632
MICE					
Number of complaints received.....	-	20	10	-	30
Number of premises treated.....	-	20	10	-	30
Number of premises cleared.....	-	16	8	-	24

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 (Amendment Act) 1951 - removal of persons in need of care and attention.

No action has been necessary under the Act.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

Nine dairies are registered in the area:-

Licences issued:-

Dealer's Licences.....	Tuberculin Tested -pasteurised -	8
	Pasteurised.....	8
Supplementary Licences.....	Tuberculin Tested -pasteurised..	6
	Pasteurised.....	6

SECTION D
FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

Number of Factories registered in the district..... 85

Number of inspections made during the year..... 49

Factories Act 1937 - PART ONE OF THE ACT

PREMISES.	Number on Register.	Inspections.
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.....	17	9
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.....	68	40
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).....	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.....	85	49

Number of cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars.	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector
1. Want of cleanliness.	4	4	-
2. Sanitary conveniences			
(a) insufficient.	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	1	1	1
3. Other offences against the Act.	2	2	-

OUTWORKERS.

There were 54 outworkers employed during 1955. No infectious disease occurred during the year in any of the premises where the outworkers were employed.

SECTION E - HOUSING

Improvement Grants.

Throughout the year the Department has been kept busy dealing with applications for Improvement Grants. The total expenditure approved amounted to £48,880, the Council's contribution to this sum being £24, 440. The number of dwellings improved were 96, giving an average cost (of improvements) per house of £540.10.0.

The preliminary survey for the preparation of the Council's re-housing scheme was completed in September, 1955, accepted and forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Minister has asked that the time required be reduced, viz. 15 to 10 years. The officers concerned are working to this end, but it should be borne in mind that this work is far from straightforward and although each month numbers of properties appear to be dealt with on the Agenda, the process of negotiating and making the final decision in each case, is more often than not, long drawn out. The result is that the Department has a considerable number of cases pending and awaiting final settlement, and this position is likely to become worse over the next few years.

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1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation..... 46

2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority, or their officers..... 32

3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders..... 14

4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works..... 2

5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices..... 2

6. The number of demolition orders made..... 4

7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of section eleven of the Housing Act, 1936..... 5

8. The number of houses demolished..... Nil

SECTION F - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION

The number of animals killed has shown a considerable reduction during 1955, and one of the Inspectors has spent a considerable time assisting in general duties under the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Broadly speaking the quality of stock killed in the Abattoir and the one private slaughterhouse has been good. Full inspection of every carcass is carried out in each case.

It is hoped that with the passing of the new Food and Drugs Act, no time will be lost in making water-tight regulations to control the disposal of all meat unfit for human consumption so as to ensure that it is sterile before being passed to the Public for animal feeding .

CARCASES INSPECTED.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed.	3311	1212	3095	7257	17175	Nil
Number inspected.	3311	1212	3095	7257	17175.	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci. Whole carcases condemned.	4	36	26	8	130	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1842	665	18	472	2389	Nil
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	18	7	1	-	7	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	104	139	3	-	317	Nil
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	12	4	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	10	3	-	-	-	-

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

The Sanitary Inspectors and Sampling Officers of the County Council have taken routine samples of milk, either produced or distributed in the area. A summary is given below:-

Alderholt		
Pasteurised.	3 samples taken	All satisfactory
Non-designated.	6 samples taken	4 satisf. 2 unsatis.
Colehill		
Pasteurised.	10 samples taken	All satisfactory
Corfe Mullen		
Pasteurised.	5 samples taken	All satisfactory
Non designated.	1 sample taken	Unsatisfactory
Cranborne	Nil	
Gussage Villages.		
T.T.	8 samples taken	All satisfactory
Hampreston		
87 samples		
Pasteurised.	74 samples taken	70 satisfactory, 4 unsatisf.
Non designated.	11 samples taken	10 satisfactory, 1 Unsatisf.
T.T.	2 samples taken	2 satisfactory
Holt		
Non-designated.	6 samples taken	All satisfactory
Pamphill		
Pasteurised.	3 samples taken	All satisfactory
Pentridge		
Pasteurised.	4 samplestaken	All satisfactory
Non designated.	2 samples taken	" "
TT	2 samples taken	" "

Shapwick		
Pasteurised.	16 samples taken	All satisfactory
Sixpenny Handley		
Non-designated.	7 samples taken	All satisfactory
Sturminster Marshall		
Pasteurised.	48 samples taken	All satisfactory
T.T.	3 samples taken	" "
West Parley and West Moors		
Pasteurised.	8 samples taken	All satisfactory
Verwood		
Pasteurised.	10 samples taken	All satisfactory
Wimborne St. Giles		
T.T.	3 samples taken	2 satisfactory 1 unsatisfactory
Witchampton		
T.T.	4 samples taken	Satisfactory
Non-designated.	1 sample taken	Satisfactory

METHYLENE BLUE TEST.

This is used by the Public Health Laboratory for all Milk. It indicates the keeping quality by the time taken to reduce methylene blue under defined conditions.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises licences has increased from 61 to 67.

The following samples were taken during the year:-

Parish	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.	Total
Alderholt.	11	3	1	-	15
Colehill.	15	5	-	-	20
Corfe Mullen.	36	1	3	1	41
Cranborne.	5	-	1	-	6
Gussage All Saints.	4	-	-	-	4
Hampreston.	71	8	8	6	93
Hinton Martell.	6	1	1	-	8
Holt.	5	1	-	1	7
Horton.	7	-	1	-	8
Shapwick.	8	1	2	1	12
Sixpenny Handley.	3	-	1	1	5
Sturminster Marshall.	18	3	-	2	23
Verwood.	31	7	2	1	41
West Parley.	65	13	10	-	88
Witchampton.	4	1	-	-	5
	289	44	30	13	376

Provisional Grades of ice Cream

Provisional Grade.	Time taken to reduce methylene blue
Grade 1.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more.
Grade 2.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 hours.
Grade 3.	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours.
Grade 4.	0

NOTE:-

Judgment should be based on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent into Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

The following food was condemned during the year, and condemnation certificates issued in respect of the following:-

460 lbs. Imported Beef.
74 lbs Chuck Stead.
27 lbs Cod.
28 lbs Hake.
20 Tins Corned Beef.
4 Tins Ham
2 Tins Cooked Gammon.
225 Tins miscellaneous goods.

SECTION G
PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

Scarlet fever	3
Whooping cough	15
Poliomyelitis (P)	4
(NP)	2
Measles	333
Pneumonia	10
Erysipelas	9
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	3
Non-Pulmonary	2
Food poisoning	2
Ophalmia Neontorium	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Malaria	2

FOOD POISONING

Two cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, the causes in both cases being unknown.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of December, 1955, the following cases were registered.

PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY
56 Males.	6 Males.
48 females.	9 Females.

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

AGE	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Measles.	Polio-myelitis	Pneu-monia	Ery-sipelas	T.B.	Food Poisg.	Ophal. Neon.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Malaria
Under 1		3	9								
1 - 2.		4	44	1							
3 - 4.	1	4	72	1							
5 - 9.	2	3	187	1	1						
10-14.			14	2							
15-24.		1		4	1	1		1		1	
25 and over.	1	4	1	5	8	4	2				2
Age unknown.		2									